

Appl. No. 09/335,363 Attorney Docket No. 1884-39D (81841.0019)  
Amdt. Dated December 15, 2004 Customer No. 26021  
Reply to Final Office Action of September 15, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 1, 13, 14, 20, 26, and 27 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 7, 10, 15-18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28-31, and 33 are amended. Claims 2-12, 15-19, 21-25, and 28-34 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-11, 13, 14, and 20-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stylli et al. This rejection is moot with respect to claims 1, 13, 14, 20, 26, and 27 due to the cancellation of these claims. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as to claims 2-11 and 21-25.

The Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's statement that a person of ordinary skill in the art would know that the articulate robotic arm mentioned in Stylli is one having a gripping means. The Applicant maintains that the term "gripper" is not inherent in "articulated robotic arms". In addition, the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that the "transporting" could only occur if the robotic arm had a gripping means, since a platen or other means could be used for the transporting. However, in order to expedite the processing of the instant application, the Applicant canceled claims 1, 13, 14, 20, 26, and 27; and amended claims 2, 7, 10, 15-18, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28-31, and 33. Claims 2-11 now depend from amended claim 15, which was rewritten in independent form. The Examiner states that claim 15 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Since claims 2-11 now depend from claim 15, they are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15. Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of claims 2-11 is thus respectfully requested.

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Claims 21-25 now depend from amended claim 28, which was rewritten in independent form. The Examiner states that claim 28 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Since claims 21-25 now depend from claim 28, they are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 28. Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of claims 21-25 is thus respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stylli et al in view of Kurosaki et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 12 now depends from amended claim 15, which was rewritten in independent form. The Examiner states that claim 15 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Since claim 12 now depends from claim 15, claim 12 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 12 is thus respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER:

The Examiner indicated that claims 15-19 and 28-34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant rewrote claims 15-19 and 28-34 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of this objection and allowance of claims 15-19 and 28-34 is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments comply with requirements of form and thus may be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b). In addition, admission

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is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) as presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

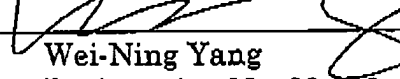
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: December 15, 2004

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